



SPECIAL COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 5, 2011
6:00 P.M.

Regular Meeting	The Special meeting of the Common Council of the City of Middletown was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, July 5, 2011 at 6 p.m.
Present	Deputy Mayor Joseph E. Bibisi, Council members: Thomas J. Serra, Philip J. Pessina, Robert P. Santangelo, Hope P. Kasper, Grady L. Faulkner, Jr., Deborah A. Kleckowski David Bauer, and Daniel T. Drew; Sergeant-at-arms, Acting Chief of Police Patrick McMahon; and Common Council Clerk Marie O. Norwood
Absent	Mayor Sebastian N. Giuliano, Council members Ronald P. Kattenberg, Gerald E. Daley, James B. Streeto, and Corporation Counsel William Howard
Also Present	Personnel Director Debra Milardo, Public Works Director Bill Russo, Water and Sewer Director Guy Russo, Fire Chief Gary Ouellette, Finance Director Carl Erlacher, Central Communications Director Wayne Bartolotta, Director of IT William Oliver, Park and Recreation Director Ray Santostefano, Planning, Conservation, and Development Director Bill Warner, Director of Weights and Measures and ADA Coordinator Philip Cacciola, Acting Parking Director Roger Beliveau, Health Director Joseph Havlicek, and Acting City Attorney Timothy Lynch.
Meeting Called to Order	The Acting Chair calls the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and asks Councilwoman Kleckowski to lead the public in the pledge of Allegiance.
Call of Meeting Read	The Call of the meeting is read and accepted. The Deputy Mayor declares this call a legal call and the meeting a legal meeting.
Workshop Opens	<p>The Acting Chair opens Questions to Directors workshop at 6:05 p.m.</p> <p>Councilman Serra asks for the City Attorney and states the ordinance amendment proposed by Councilwoman Kasper and Councilwoman Kleckowski during Ordinance Study; there is a State Statute that deals with handicap parking and there is a question if they have to pay for parking or not and historically handicapped people never paid for parking and to clarify that it was proposed. He asks if it follows the State Statute. The Acting City Attorney states it follows my opinion but other towns like West Hartford do not read it the same way. Councilman Serra states you are reading it the way it is printed. Attorney Lynch responds yes; they are not required to pay for parking. Councilman Serra asks how many communities make them pay at metered parking. Attorney Lynch responds they have not done the study; West Hartford does and Tom, the former Parking Director, did a study and a number of other communities require payment in handicapped parking. In Middletown we did not. Acting Chair Bibisi asks Roger Beliveau, Acting Parking Director. He states the City of New Britain, West Hartford and New Haven and the way I read it, it doesn't say you have to charge or not charge. You have a three hour limit and you can't charge them for over the 3 hour period, but it doesn't say we can't charge. Councilman Serra states what have we been doing. Mr. Beliveau responds since October, we have been handing out cards and he reads the card, which says parking be paid whether handicapped and if a meter is expired, we issue a one time warning that time has expired. Councilman Serra states prior to the former Parking Director, what did we do at a metered handicapped stall. Mr. Beliveau responds it was courtesy of the City and they were not required to pay. Councilman Serra states a person could park in any metered stall. Mr. Beliveau responds for ten years he has worked with the City and it has been that way. Acting Chair Bibisi states it was 32 years. Councilman Serra asks how many have been given out. Mr. Beliveau responds, the courtesy card, I can't tell you. I can tell you how many expired handicap stickers there are because I have a box of them. Councilman Serra asks if he agrees with the new ordinance. Mr. Beliveau responds no he doesn't and we have two automated parking lots and they can't tell who is handicapped. If you go to Bradley Airport, they cannot tell who is handicapped and everyone pays. Councilman Serra asks if this is passed. . . Mr. Beliveau replies we can't enforce it. We can let it go for the meter but not the automated parking lots.</p>

There is nothing out there in the industry that recognizes a handicapped sticker. Councilman Serra asks how many stalls are there in Melilli. Mr. Beliveau responds he believes it is ten. Councilman Serra states with a permit they pay. Mr. Beliveau replies yes and as long as we have been doing this, I have had one complaint. The permit gives them permission to park in the space, but doesn't give them free space. Our intention is to meter handicapped with ten hour meters; we are not limiting them. Those with a handicapped sticker are looking to park on Main Street and not in the lot and the workers are clogging up the availability of the spaces for customers coming in.

Acting Chair Bibisi asks if there are questions for this director; for another director.

Noted for the Record

Councilman Faulkner takes his seat at 6:13 p.m.

Acting Chair Bibisi recognizes Councilman Bauer who asks if downtown parking and parking lots, do we adhere to the number of spaces. Mr. Beliveau responds on Main Street, we have ten more than we need. We exceed. Councilman Bauer states for the Parking Department what is the policy for enforcing the use of the handicapped stalls. We have seen people parking here without stickers and what have you done on that issue. Mr. Beliveau replies people who abuse it, they issue them a \$150 ticket.

Noted for the Record

Councilman Pessina takes his seat at 6:14 p.m.

Councilman Bauer asks how many have been issued; Mr. Beliveau replies he can get the information for you. Councilman Bauer states that is more than the number of complaints. Mr. Beliveau replies yes; we are willing to work with those people who have a problem.

Councilwoman Kasper states there is a Statute that says there should be no penalty for overtime parking. Mr. Beliveau responds we can't limit them. Councilwoman Kasper asks how do you differentiate the one hour they are given and then over the time limit. I disagree with your interpretation that there is no penalty for parking with an appropriate sticker. Have you gotten another opinion from the Motor Vehicle Department. Mr. Beliveau responds we can't get an answer yes or no in talking with them. Councilwoman Kasper asks can we get that in writing from them. She thought of the State Attorney or Chiefs of Police Association and do they have opinions on this issue. Mr. Beliveau states I am sure they have opinions.

Councilman Bauer asks to address questions to the Fire Chief Ouellette. Chief Ouellette comes forward. Councilman Bauer states we have \$906,000 on the agenda. We did have a bonding for \$750,000 and how much will you have to use. The Chief responds the whole \$750,000. Councilman Bauer states you had \$170,000. Chief Ouellette responds I have the difference from the \$750,000 and \$905,000. Councilman Bauer states I wanted to confirm and that you had an excess and would use less for borrowing; are you keeping some in the capital account. Chief Ouellette states we need the whole \$750,000 and that was from day one.

Councilman Bauer asks for the Health Director. Dr. Joe Havlicek comes forward.

Noted for the Record

Councilman Drew takes his seat at 6:19 p.m.

Councilman Bauer asks on the grant what you are going to use the grant for. Dr. Havlicek responds we are being told how to use the money. He reads the list and they will tell us what to use it for and okay it. Councilman Bauer states I am asking what your plan is. Dr. Havlicek responds they will recruit people for the Medical Reserve Corps and will continue to do that. Councilman Bauer asks if it is used for payroll. Dr. Havlicek replies the corps is volunteer. Councilman Bauer states how do you expend it; does it pay for her hours. Dr. Havlicek replies \$20,000 is payroll and the rest for trainees.

Councilman Bauer asks to address questions to Finance. Carl Erlacher, Director of Finance, comes forward to respond. Councilman Bauer states he noticed the end of year fiscal transfers and there was a lot of cell phone activity and did we make them work within our budget; how did we do on the cell phones. Mr. Erlacher replies he would check each transfer and since then we have switched companies to reduce the cost.

Councilman Serra asks Mr. Erlacher, CNR fund; he sees that Public Works is requesting \$300,000 including a plow. Miscellaneous is that a contingency fund and is that what you carry for CNR for this magnitude. Mr. Erlacher

responds no; miscellaneous is for all the little departments that don't have one that might need a chair or file cabinets. The Council appropriated \$900,000 and they allocated by percentage and one department requested extra and you need to make a choice; you could grant them the extra \$30,000 and I suggest that you do that at the next meeting or you can take money from another department or you can tell Public Works to live with it. Councilman Serra states we can wait until the end of the year until we see how the bids come in. Mr. Erlacher responds yes, but you can't buy it now; you would have to appropriate. Councilman Serra states you could take it from the Miscellaneous line item, but it is used by other departments or you can amend the request.

Councilman Serra asks for Bill Russo, Director of Public Works. He states the question is the need of the one plow truck; what is the timeframe to purchase this if we bring it forward. Mr. Russo responds when they put it together, it was \$160,000 and he went out and the snowblower is \$60,000 and the truck is \$160,000 and we need three vehicles and we were given \$270,000 and we need \$300,000. If we can't get a second snow blower, they will pull it. Councilman Serra states a blower on Main Street. Mr. Russo replies last year we couldn't get to everything with one piece of equipment; we need another blower or another truck if we have another winter like last year. One will go out in the woods and one stays in town and works so we can be more efficient. Councilman Serra asks for one more question; the CNR for last year was \$300,000 and what was the percentage left over. Mr. Erlacher states CNR last year was between \$500,000 and \$600,000. Councilman Serra asks what was carried over. Mr. Erlacher states \$100,000 for emergencies.

Councilman Bauer asks Mr. Russo, we have a lot of LoCIP, individual expenditures almost \$150,000; do we have any kind of plan or schedule of maintenance or documentation who is watching the condition of our buildings and keeping track or giving us a maintenance schedule. I am surprised to see these and who plans and prioritizes these. Mr. Russo responds Public Works prioritizes this building and City yard and the St. Sebastian building is coming under it and you might see things under road bonds and we are putting together another road bond for 2011 with upgrades to this building; the deck needs some attention and he is getting estimates of the cost. As to other departments, I can't tell you how they submit. Councilman Bauer asks if there is any one place a citizen can go to look at the shape of the buildings, an asset management plan on the upkeep of buildings and facilities. Mr. Russo replies we have contracts for various things like heating and cooling and we approach it on an as needed basis. City yard doesn't need a lot of upkeep except for heating. This building and Eckersley Hall will be the biggest upkeep. Councilman Bauer asks if there is a piece of paper that says how long this building's life would be. Mr. Russo states as long as we keep the building up it will go for as long as we want. The wear and tear; we are in excellent shape. We change rugs as needed; bathrooms are upgraded. Councilman Bauer states there is no documentation. Mr. Russo responds do we have something that says the building will be obsolete in 25 years, no. Councilman Bauer states I hope we don't have a winter like this past year.

Acting Chair Bibisi asks if there are any questions to other directors.

Motion to Adjourn

Hearing, none he asks for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Serra so moves and is seconded by Councilman Pessina; the vote is unanimous to adjourn with nine aye votes. Acting Chair Bibisi declares the meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

ATTEST:

MARIE O NORWOOD
Common Council Clerk